

3.2.2 MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION SELECTED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND REQUIRED ACTIONS

The management strategies listed below are identified under each general problem statement as found in Section 4.2. (Table 3.1). The Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) early in the FMP process requested DMF staff provide estimated costs on the selected management and research recommendations. A specific overview on the estimated costs is found in Appendix 12.5 and the research recommendations are summarized in Section 10.2. An overview of the MFC Shellfish and Regional Advisory Committees selected management and research recommendations are provided in Appendix 12.6. Improving bay scallop management in North Carolina includes all strategies required to produce the best management plan possible, which includes estimating annual abundance and comprehensive habitat enhancement.

Table 3.1. The Marine Fisheries Commission selected management strategy, objectives followed, and required actions.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	OBJECTIVES	REQUIRED ACTION
INSUFFICIENT DATA		
1. Recommend produce a mechanism to obtain data on the recreational scallop harvest.	1, 3, 5, and 6	Existing authority
2. Recommend continue prohibited take (started in January 2006) and evaluate the population status annually.	1 and 3	Existing proclamation authority
3. Recommend sampling during the prohibited take period to define an independent sampling indicator for re-opening a harvest season.	1, 3, and 4	Existing authority
4. Recommend eliminating the December opening and compress the main season by beginning the last Monday in January.	1, 4, and 6	Requires rule change to 15A NCAC 03K .0501
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS		
1. Identify and delineate Strategic Habitat Areas that will enhance protection of bay scallop.	1, 2, and 4	Existing authority though the CHPP implementation plan
2. Completely map all SAV habitat in North Carolina.	1 and 2	Existing authority though the CHPP implementation plan
3. Remap SAV habitat in Core and Bogue sounds and assess change in distribution and abundance over time.	1 and 2	Existing authority though the CHPP implementation plan
4. Restore historical distribution and acreage of SAV wherever necessary.	1, 2, and 4	Existing authority though the CHPP implementation plan
5. Aggressively reduce point and non-point nutrient and sediment loading in estuarine waters, to levels that will sustain SAV habitat, using regulatory and non-regulatory actions.	2 and 4	Existing authority though the CHPP implementation plan